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Tom's Town Distilling Company Opens in KC's Crossroads

First Legal Distillery in Downtown KC Since Prohibition

KANSAS CITY, MO (January 5, 2016) Tom's Town Distilling Co., a new craft distillery opening at 1701 Main in Kansas City's Crossroads district, is the first legal, downtown distillery in Kansas City since Prohibition. Tom's Town began production in November, and will open to the public January 6.

The locally owned craft distillery produces vodka, gin and bourbon. When Tom's Town opens, visitors will enjoy distillery tours, a tasting room with small plates and an event space accommodating up to 250 people.

The distillery draws inspiration from the country's most polarizing and corrupt political boss, Tom Pendergast, who controlled Kansas City in the 1920s and 1930s. Tom's Town names its spirits after some of the most colorful characters of Prohibition-era Kansas City:

Pendergast's Royal Gold Bourbon - Tom's Town curates a series of whiskeys sold under Tom Pendergast's original trademark, "Royal Gold." The Inaugural Batch is a superb 10-year-old bourbon with a delicate nose of vanilla and cherry. It is followed with caramel and marzipan on the mid-palate and has a smooth finish with a hint of rye spice. The Inaugural Batch will be followed in 2016 by a unique, cask finished release. These small-batch whiskeys and bourbons are available in limited supplies.

"Pendergast bought whiskey and sold it under several different labels - one of which was Royal Gold. We're doing the same thing - sourcing great bourbon, bottling it and selling it, while perfecting our own recipe," said Steve Revare, Tom's Town cofounder. "Personally selected by our distiller Rob Vossmeier, our Inaugural Batch is an amazing ten-year-old bourbon - rich and smooth with a long finish."



McElroy's Corruption Gin - Named after Pendergast's corrupt city manager, Henry McElroy, this New Westernstyle gin balances traditional juniper with more than a dozen different botanicals including fresh lemongrass, long pepper, grains of paradise, kaffir lime leaf, and orris root.

Eli's StrongArm Vodka - Named after Pendergast's bodyguard and gatekeeper, Elijah Matheus, Eli's StrongArm Vodka is distilled from wheat and locallygrown rye using our 16plate vodka column. The result is the cleanest imaginable spirit, a velvety smooth, premium vodka. It is one of only a handful of American vodkas made with rye.

Founders Steve Revare and David Epstein, both native Kansas Citians, have owned successful businesses together in the past, but Tom's Town plays on their love of both Kansas City and craftmade spirits.

"Back when Tom Pendergast ran Kansas City, this town was on fire - much like it is today. And from an entertainment standpoint, I'm not sure it could be beat," said cofounder Epstein. "More than 250 speakeasies were in the downtown area, allowing jazz to really take hold. It's that glamour, excitement and creativity that we recreate at Tom's Town."

Both Epstein and Revare have personal ties to the Pendergast history of Kansas City. Revare's greatgreat uncle was Maurice Milligan, the US Attorney who sent Pendergast to prison for tax evasion. Epstein's grandfather, Herman Epstein, was a rival bootlegger to Pendergast.

Revare and Epstein have hired Robert Vossmeier as head distiller. Vossmeier holds a Certificate in Distilling from the Institute of Brewing and Distilling in the United Kingdom, a Certificate in Distillery Operations from Kothe Distilling Technologies, Inc., and a Certified Specialist of Spirits certification from the Society of Wine Educators. He has distilled rum and produced several liqueurs with GrandTen Distilling in Boston, Mass., and studied gin distillation with Clay Smith of the famed Corsair Distillery.

About Tom's Town Distilling Co. Founded in 2015, Tom's Town Distilling Co. is the first legal distillery in downtown Kansas City since Prohibition. From its historic Crossroads district location, the distillery produces unique craft spirits and harkens back to the thriving era when infamous political boss Tom Pendergast controlled Kansas City. Tom's Town promotes responsible drinking habits. For more information, visit www.toms-town.com.

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